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AN  
APPENDIX  
TO  
THE PAMPHLET  
ON  
THE EARLY SYMPTOMS  
OF  
WATER IN THE BRAIN,  
CONTAINING  
CASES SUCCESSFULLY TREATED,  
WITH  
PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE DOCTRINES  
THEREIN INCULCATED,  
AND SOME  
OBSERVATIONS ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INTESTINES  
AS  
*CONNECTED WITH A MORBID ACTION*  
OF THE  
DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

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# APPENDIX.

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## PRELIMINARY REMARKS,

WITH

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE INTESTINAL  
FUNCTIONS, AS CONNECTED WITH MORBID  
IRRITATION IN THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

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**H**AVING in a former publication, endeavoured to impress upon the minds of my readers, the indispensable necessity of attending to those very early symptoms, which lead to the disease termed Water in the Brain, it will be a matter of utility, to adduce a few cases which have been treated upon this principle, as illustrative of the doctrine therein inculcated.\* The

\* A Statement of the Early Symptoms which lead to the Disease termed Water in the Brain; with Observations on the

facts, which have occurred to me since I submitted to the public this mode of viewing the disease, and of anticipating its fatality, have amply confirmed, in addition to my former experience, the truth of the positions on which I have grounded the practice. The favourable manner in which the profession have received my first publication;\* the appeals they have made to their own experience of its fatality, as confirming the doctrine I wish strongly to impress upon the minds of those who have the management of young people, and the apparently trifling nature of these early symptoms, with their apparent want of connection with that ultimate stage of the disease, which so frequently proves

necessity of a watchful attention to them, and on the fatal consequences of their neglect, &c. &c.

\* The Medical Repository for March 1815—The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, No. XLIV. for the first of October, 1815—The Medico-Chirurgical Journal and Review for April the 1st, 1816—Critical Review for October, 1816.



fatal, have induced me to publish the cases contained in this Appendix. I trust it will be seen from strict inductive reasoning, that the probability is, that these cases would have terminated in very serious diseases, connected with a watery effusion on the brain, had not such a treatment been adopted, as tended to obviate the morbid impression, which a neglected derangement in the action of the digestive organs will most commonly produce. The intelligent reader, in his perusal of the cases, will not fail to remark many morbid conditions of different parts of the body, connected with the irritation of the digestive organs, and with the irregular intestinal actions; but which gradually disappeared when the abdominal viscera were restored to more healthy functions. I have read, with much satisfaction, some very valuable and candid remarks on my pamphlet, from the pen of

several professional Gentlemen, in the periodical journals.

In adducing these cases, I have produced facts as they occurred, unsophisticated by any preconceived notions; but when the mind, active in its pursuits, is intent upon the objects of its professional enquiry, it is impossible not to reason, and in reasoning not to theorize. In the subsequent remarks, therefore, some reasoning of this kind is interwoven, resulting from the impression of experienced facts on my mind; the reader, however, can draw what conclusion he pleases from the cases themselves, which are a statement of facts, both in the detail of the symptoms, and of the medical treatment.

It is necessary to premise a few observations on the intestinal functions, in order that the reader who takes an interest in the philosophical, as well as practical view of his profession, may carry them along with him in his perusal of the

cases, and apply them, if he pleases, to the symptoms and treatment.

The necessity of the healthy state of the stomach, to the well-being and comfort of the animal, has always been considered a matter of primary importance; but the improvement in the knowledge of anatomy, as well as in many points of physiology, upon which that improved knowledge has thrown light, has opened a more extended view, than the consideration of the stomach merely as a digestive organ would produce. The mouth prepares the food for the stomach, and the latter prepares it for the duodenum, where the more elaborate process is performed. In the stomach, the operation is the simplest, compared with that in the duodenum, being the reduction of the food into a softened mass, changed by the solvent powers of the gastric juice: it is here mixed with no other secretions than



those of the stomach itself, except the saliva it has received in the mouth, the mucus in the fauces, and in its passage down the gullet. After it is reduced to this mass by solution, it is propelled after a given time into the duodenum, or second stomach, an organ fully as important, if not more so, than the first stomach; for the mass is not only mixed with the secretions of the duodenum itself, but with the bile and liquor of the pancreas, and moreover is thereby changed in such a manner, as to have extracted from it, the chyle, or nutritious juice, which is afterwards carried into the circulation for the support of the body. The duodenum then not only acts as a recipient to the first stomach, but is also the great receiver of the fluids from the liver and pancreas; besides preparing its own secretions, intimately mixing the mass with all these substances, in such a manner, as to procure from them



that highly nutrient juice just mentioned. The mass is then slowly passed on through the remaining tract of the intestines, that this nutriment may be gradually absorbed, and carried into the constitution. It is then arrived, deprived of this nutritious fluid, at the colon, or greatest intestine, which begins at the right hip, ascends, and passes in a beautiful arch across the belly, above the navel, and below the pit of the stomach, and then descends to the left hip, where it becomes much narrower in its diameter, and tortuous in its course: the rectum, or straight gut, here begins, and ends with the outlet of the body.

This capacious intestine is the reservoir for the fæculent part of the food, which is voided at stated periods, in a similar way as the urinary bladder acts, for the kidneys, and the gall bladder for the liver. In this way, then, the intestines are propelling organs, carrying forward what

they receive, for the two-fold purpose of affording greater time, and greater extent of surface, for the absorption of nourishment; and secondly, for the expulsion of the useless, and fæculent part from the body. Their functions in this point of view are highly important, in as much as any continued, or frequently repeated impediment, to the exertion of their propulsive power, or to the facilities of absorption, must prove highly injurious to health, and ultimately fatal to life. The colon, the capacious reservoir for that portion of the food to be rejected, is well adapted, both by situation and structure, for containing a considerable quantity of fæces, before it is absolutely necessary to expel them. Any retention of a quantity of fæces for a length of time, not only becomes injurious, by the pressure of a hardened mass on parts whose functions are essential to health, but this want of action

in the colon, necessarily causes an impediment to the propulsive power of the other intestines, as they are one continued tube; hence they become quiescent, or are thrown into spasmodic, or other irregular action, not only thus disturbing the digestive process, particularly in the duodenum, but impeding the regular flow of the bile and juice of the pancreas into it: in this way the pancreas and liver become morbidly affected, without any original fault in themselves.

There is another point of view too, in which I consider the functions of the intestines, and in which, probably, there may be some novelty, but which appears to me to be established by facts. The whole tract of the intestines is a great secreting surface, not only for supplying mucus for lubrication, to facilitate the transmission of their contents; but their exhalant vessels and glands discharge parts,



noxious, or useless to the constitution, similar to the kidneys, skin and lungs. It is very probable, however, considering the peculiar functions of the duodenum, that the secretions from its glands, which are numerous in its upper part, are more immediately intended for the purposes of the digestive process, which is more complicated here than in the first stomach. A continued loaded state of the colon, or a frequent repetition of it, will, by impeding the propulsive power of the intestines, diminish or totally suspend, the secretion or exhaling action, on their surface, as is indicated by the fæces being dry and hard in costiveness, and from the dryness of the tongue and fauces, not only in fevers, but in certain torpid states of the alimentary canal, where no fever, properly so called, exists. The effect which such a cessation of secretion from so large an extent of surface, will have upon the sys-

tem, is too well established, from the analogy which the suspension of other important excrementitious secretions produce, to need any comment.

The repeated impediment to the regular motion of the intestines, will often have another effect, besides that of diminishing, or suspending the exhalations from their surface, viz. of giving a morbid action to the discerning vessels, both in themselves, and in the neighbouring glands; hence the highly offensive, and badly coloured masses, we very frequently see discharged in costiveness, and in irregular actions of the intestinal canal, where very little, or no food, has been taken, as in some fevers. This morbid impulse given to the digestive organs, through the medium of the intestinal canal, by a loaded state, or improper action of the colon, has not, I fear, been sufficiently appreciated.

From the intimate connection which exists between the head, and different parts of the body, through the medium of the nerves, as with the heart, through the medium of the blood vessels, it is not very difficult to understand, that the brain should become affected by a loaded state of the colon, producing an irregular and torpid state of the intestines, and irritation in the digestive organs. This secondary, but no less dangerous, and often fatal, affection of the brain, is attempted to be explained elsewhere.\* The brain, moreover, is the organ which always receives an impression, whenever any part of the body is under irritation, for it is only through it, that we can feel the pain to exist; hence it very often happens, convulsions are produced, and some-

\* See P. 93 to 98 of the Pamphlet on Water in the Brain, for an anatomical view of the digestive organs, by nerves and blood vessels, with their connection with the brain, and the observations resulting therefrom.



times fatally, by local irritation in a distant part. An irritated part, very commonly puts on morbid vascularity; this increased vascularity ends in an effusion of fluid, or in an enlargement of the part, in the form of schirrosity, or thickening; hence in hydrencephalus, supervening upon long continued irritation of the digestive organs, we meet, not only with a watery effusion into the ventricles of the brain, but with the abdominal glands morbidly enlarged; a proof, among many others, of the dangerous consequences, arising from a want of proper attention to what are called general nervous feelings, or the nervous irritation of a part. The limits of the object I have in view, prevent me from entering more largely upon this very interesting subject.

In attending to the health of children, particularly in reference to the disease of Water in the Brain, sufficient regard is

not paid to the quantity and quality of their food. In general, they are supplied in considerable quantity, with various articles, which the well-meant, but mistaken, indulgence of nurses is apt to increase under an opinion that they will be better nourished, and thus have their strength and growth promoted. Perhaps a more fatal idea never prevailed. The stomach is made to labour more than is necessary, by the improper quantity, and injurious quality, of the food, and an imperfectly subdued mass is carried to the duodenum. Here, I am inclined to believe, that wonderful provision of nature exists, which we see so admirably prevails in other parts of the body on other occasions, of repairing the mischief which is done by the injurious proceeding in the stomach. Hence it is that we often witness the body to be sufficiently nourished, where we know indigestion prevails much

in the stomach. But this state of the first stomach, however, becomes a constant source of irritation, and from the close connection which exists by nerves, blood-vessels, and contiguity, the duodenum soon feels the impression, the liver and pancreas partake of it, the sympathetic irritation is felt in its fullest force in the brain, and a sudden, and perhaps fatal disease surprises the child, at a moment, when nothing was considered to be the matter beyond a trifling costiveness, or some accidental uneasiness in the stomach.

The impression of the improper quality of the food on the stomach, independent of quantity, will sometimes produce very dangerous consequences on the brain ; to illustrate which I have adduced Case IX. which, but for prompt and decisive measures, would have proved one of long suffering, or probably fatal. In the treatment therefore of those pre-



cursory symptoms of deranged digestive organs, and of irregular action in the intestinal canal, the quantity and quality of the diet should be particularly attended to, as a matter of the first moment; indeed experience, as well as physiological views, have so fully taught me the necessity of it, that without the dietetic regimen, the medical prescriptions will not be of much avail. The quantity of the food should be always moderate, and much less than what the child usually takes when in health; and the quality of it will depend, in a great measure, upon the symptoms which the digestive irritation has produced: beyond this it is impossible to speak, without entering largely into a subject, of great interest no doubt, but to which this Appendix does not extend.

When the digestive organs are oppressed by an accumulated load of fæces, and a consequent inactive state of the colon,

purgatives are usually administered, and occasionally repeated when this oppressed state, arising from the same cause, occurs; and from the immediate and sensible relief, obtained by unloading the lower intestines, no object is looked for, other than this effect.\* This is a delusive security, and it is the error to which I wish much to awaken attention; for it is not enough to have relieved the intestines of an unusual load, diseased secretions, to which constipation and irregular intestinal actions have given rise, must be altered; the intestines must be gradually, and healthily excited, otherwise the morbid condition, relieved by the operation of the purgative, particularly under improper diet, soon recurs, and that dangerous irritation of the digestive organs, so much to be deprecated, supervenes.

The very operation of the purgative too,

\* See p. 37 of the Pamphlet on Water in the Brain.

particularly when active, is calculated to produce this quiescent condition of the intestines, as every one knows, who has ever taken a purgative, from the costive state which most commonly ensues.\* An active dose of calomel, the medicine usually had recourse to, produces this consequence more than any other medicine, as far as my experience goes. The immediate effects are, undoubtedly, more lively spirits, with salutary sensations; but these continue only for a day or two, while the moving impression remains upon the intestines, and while the secretions temporarily excited, are poured into them; the torpid state soon recurs with the glandular quiescence, resulting from the previous preternaturally excited state, and langour and lassitude prevail.

\* See this subject more fully stated at p. 48, 9, of the Pamphlet, where cases are quoted from authors, of Water in the Brain proving fatal, in which large quantities of mercury were given, without attending to the intestinal actions.



A purgative dose of calomel has appeared to me, very frequently, to produce this semi-paralytic state of the abdominal viscera; it is then repeated at intervals to remove this uneasy languor, till their tone is materially affected. I am satisfied, from facts, which have occurred to me in practice, that in certain irritated states of the digestive organs, calomel has caused a very unfriendly impression on the nerves of the intestines, so as morbidly to affect, and prove painfully injurious to, the brain. The kind of purgative becomes therefore a matter of importance, in many morbid conditions of the digestive organs.

These points have not been attended to, with sufficient consideration and inquiry, particularly the constipated state, into which the intestines relapse after a purgative; and it will be accordingly found, that in the cases herein adduced,

almost all of them had taken occasional purgatives to remove the present uneasiness of constipation, yet nevertheless fell into that state of disease, requiring the aid of powerful medical treatment.

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## CASE I.

*Miss J. R. aged 22 years—July 26, 1815.*

Complains of almost constant head-ach, the pain is situated chiefly at the back part of the head, sometimes attended with a throbbing sensation ; she is feverish in the evening, when the head-ach becomes worse, with flushing in the face at the time ; the appetite is good, and she makes no complaint of thirst ; the tongue is however white, and is clammy, from an unusual tenacity of the saliva ; the bowels are torpid, the evacuations are very dark coloured ; but several weeks ago a spontaneous diarrhœa came on, when the evacuations were observed to be very white ; the pain of the head is increased by stooping, moving, or coughing ; has frequently a ringing in her ears ; her feet are always



very cold; pulse 70, feeble; urine not particularly high coloured, but deposits a lateritious sediment. She has been cupped on the back of the neck, and leeches have been applied to the temples, but she did not derive any benefit from them. Several weeks ago her head was shaved, and three blisters, in succession, were applied as each healed. The most relief has been obtained from these, but sometimes the head-ach has spontaneously remitted, and whenever this has been the case, she has observed the bowels to be more regular in their action: the menses have always been regular, but she suffers pain at the time. Has taken a variety of medicines: mercurial ointment was rubbed in for one month in the spring, when the mouth became sore, and was kept so for another month. She has now a seton in the neck, which was inserted in March last; but no permanent benefit has been

derived from any thing. The Physician who attended her gave it as his opinion, that it was a case of Water in the Brain, and he quitted her in consequence of the symptoms not yielding to the usual mode of treating the disease.

I was sent for from London to see her, and went down to the County of Bucks on the 26th of July, 1815, and found her in the situation above described. The complaints had commenced, above one year and a half ago, with pain in the right side under the ribs, which increased so much, as to require cupping, leeches, and blisters. This pain was accompanied with uneasiness across the chest, dyspnœa, and severe cough. At that time the head first became pained, and has continued to be troublesome ever since; the bowels were also obstinately costive. This state continued, with varied degrees of intensity, for six months; the side and epigastric region

being very tender to the touch. She was so reduced, as to be obliged to be carried from the bed to the sofa. Immediately previous to this attack, hard knots or tumors appeared in different parts of her body, which discharged blood at first, but afterwards blood mixed with pus. The tumors had the appearance of carbuncle; they healed at the conclusion of this attack, and have not appeared since. During this painful state, she was occasionally affected with a convulsive agitation of the right arm; since this time the bowels have been always costive, with occasional returns of pain in the right side. She had always been previously in good health, with regular bowels.

Let the feet and legs be bathed every other night in warm water, with some salt and mustard in it—regulated diet, both in quality and quantity—a small



quantity only of animal food—little or no wine—seton withdrawn.

Tempore quo erumpunt menses, si gravius invaluerit dolor, sumat hora somni forma pilulæ,

Opîi puri pulveris granum,

Pulveris antimonialis grana duo.

Recipe. Extracti humuli semi-drachmam,

----- aloes spicati grana duodecim,

Pulveris potassæ sulphatis subtilissimè levigati semi-drachmam.\*

Contere et distribue, ope syrupi, in pilulas duodecim.

Sumat duas omni mane et meridie.

A saline draught, with a scruple of the sulphat of potash, was taken every night at bed time, in a state of effervescence; and three grains of the pilula hydrargyri, and two of extractum conii every other night; leeches to be applied when the head-ach is severe. I did not visit this patient a second time, but I corresponded with her professional attendant,† under

\* It is best always to give this salt in a finely levigated powder.

† Mr. Collison, an attentive and intelligent Surgeon and Apothecary, of Newport Pagnell.

whose immediate superintendence the principles of the above plan were steadily pursued.

On the first of September I was informed, that “ Miss J. R. had benefited  
 “ by the medical treatment, but that still  
 “ her head is very much affected ; she  
 “ has discontinued her medicines about a  
 “ week ; she was yesterday obliged to have  
 “ recourse to the leeches for the weight  
 “ and pressure in the head ; the appetite  
 “ is good, and she is evidently gaining  
 “ strength ; but she is for a time better,  
 “ and then becomes much worse. She  
 “ wishes to know whether you wish her  
 “ to continue on the same plan, or pre-  
 “ scribe differently.”—The following pre-  
 scription was forwarded.

Recipe. Aquæ distillatæ semi-fluidunciam,  
 Pulveris potassæ sulphatis drachmam,  
 Decocti aloes compositi, fluidrachmas sex.  
 Misce fiat haustus omni mane sumendus.

Recipe. Hydrargyri submuriatis,  
 Pulveris radices ipecacuanhæ utriusque granum,  
 Extracti humuli grana tria,  
 Opii ruri pulveris semi granum.  
 Fiat pilula omni nocte sumenda.

On the 12th of October following, I had  
 the pleasure to receive a letter, containing  
 the following paragraph:—" I feel very  
 " happy in relating favourably of Miss  
 " J. R.; she has much longer intervals of  
 " health than she has had for these two  
 " years past; but still there are slight  
 " returns of the pain in her head. She  
 " has discontinued her medicines a fort-  
 " night, but with no unfavourable symp-  
 " toms returning; it was by my advice  
 " she discontinued them, purposely to see  
 " if any relapse would take place, or  
 " rather to witness whether her present  
 " health depended upon the continuance  
 " of her medicines; and I am glad to say,  
 " that I consider it evidently arising from  
 " an improved state of the digestive or-



“ gans.” I have been lately informed (December 1818) by the same Gentleman, that she remained nearly in good health for some time, but that she has since had relapses from a faulty action of the powers of digestion, and that the adoption of similar remedies proved favourable.

The serious irritation which existed in the digestive organs, and in which the liver largely partook, had produced a very painful impression on the brain ; and the irregular intestinal actions, with the vacillating morbid secretions, sometimes white, and sometimes very dark, shared largely in the production of this alarming state. These irregular actions being frequently repeated, and the consequent irritation of the brain often recurring, had most probably caused a morbid vascularity, or a chronically inflamed state there ; ultimately a thickening of the membranes of the brain, or an effusion of water into its

ventricles, would have been the result; hence a fatal termination would have taken place, or great corporeal distress, with a degenerated state of the intellectual powers, would have supervened. The most powerful remedies had been used, salivation, blisters, setons, as evacuates to the head; but little benefit, however, was derived, until gradually alterative and exciting medicines were had recourse to, for soothing the irritation of the digestive organs, correcting the secretions, and giving a healthy excitement to the intestinal canal.

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## CASE II.

*Miss W——, 10 years of age—February  
15, 1817.*

Was brought to town from Chatham yesterday. She complains of languor, and shooting pains in the head; her sleep is much disturbed at night, but without waking, and she feels heavy and oppressed in the morning, with a disinclination to rise; has occasional chills, with flushings of the face in the evening; a good deal of sickness at stomach at times; deficiency of appetite, bowels very torpid, urine high coloured, and deposits a lateritious sediment. Pulse 70, full; tongue white. There is a preternatural fulness in the epigastric region, but no uneasiness is complained of on pressure; a considerable puffiness is observable on the face,



eye blood-shot, bleeds at times at the nose. These symptoms have prevailed for some time, but have become more troublesome lately; she has lost flesh, particularly in her limbs. A few grains of the compound powder of scammony were given with some calomel.

17th. The evacuations procured by the powder are not particularly foul, but are of a very unhealthy dirty hue.

Sumat pilularum hydrargyri grana tria, omni nocte horâ somni.

Recipe. Vini aloes fluiduncias duas,  
Liquoris potassæ fluidunciam.

Misce sumat cochleare parvum omni mane.

Recipe. Infusi sennæ semi-fluidunciam,  
Magnesiæ sulphatis drachmas duas,  
Tincturæ jalapæ fluidrachmam,  
Aquæ, fluidrachmas quinque.

Misce fiat haustus semel in septimanâ sumendus ut copiose soluta sit alvus.

She was directed to omit the aloetic wine when this purgative was taken; for it is not only necessary to keep the intes-

tines in a state of evacuating movements, by preserving a regular peristaltic action; but, in a case as this appeared to be, to give an occasional purgative, that the glandular system of the abdomen may be preserved from morbid accumulation and obstruction.

28th. By this time, the occasional sickness was no more troublesome; the appetite was good; the head-ach, and puffiness in face were gone; the evacuations by the bowels were healthy in appearance, and of a proper figure and consistence; and the urine of a good straw colour, without any sediment; but there still remained much more fulness in the epigastric region, than there ought to be. She was, however, permitted to return home with the following prescription, and with directions that the diet should not be stimulant, and that the medicines should be continued for a fortnight.

Recipe, Vini aloes fluiduncias duas,

Liquoris potassæ fluidunciam,

Decocti aloes compositi semi-fluidunciam.

Misce, sumat cochleare parvum unum vel duo omni  
mane in paucis aquæ.

Four grains of the pilula hydrargyri to be taken twice a week at night, and the purgative draught of infusum sennæ to be had recourse to when necessary.

Sunday, March 9.—“ To day her break-  
“ fast-appetite failed her, and at church  
“ in the morning she was taken very  
“ faint and sick, so as to be obliged to  
“ come home ; but she has not brought  
“ any thing off her stomach. During the  
“ morning she had two copious and  
“ healthy evacuations, which have been  
“ followed by four or five very loose,  
“ looking like milk turned to curds, with  
“ some lumpy fæces interspersed. She  
“ had as she came home a little pain in  
“ her head, which has returned now and  
“ then since, and on rising up from the



“ sofa she once complained of giddiness,  
 “ and has eaten nothing through the day,  
 “ and upon taking drink it made her  
 “ feel sickish. She has lain on the sofa  
 “ since noon, is very languid, and has  
 “ alternate chilliness and feverishness—  
 “ the lips and mouth are dry, and her  
 “ tongue white—her pulse quick, and  
 “ her eyes weak. She has all along till to-  
 “ day been in high spirits, and very ac-  
 “ tive, with her appetite tolerably good.”

On that night, (Sunday, March 9) in  
 consequence of the strict injunctions I had  
 given, to attend to evacuations whenever  
 the head was affected, or the bowels de-  
 ranged in their action, her mother very  
 properly gave her an alterative pill, and  
 the aperient draught in the morning.  
 Copious evacuations, by account by no  
 means healthy in appearance, were pro-  
 cured.

The next day (Monday) at noon, the

father came to town, with the above account committed to paper; further adding, that the head-ach had increased. I requested that on his return in the evening, three leeches might be applied to each temple. This was done, as the pain in the head had become worse, and the bleeding from them produced immediate relief.

On the following day, (Tuesday, March 11,) she was brought to town—she bore the journey very well; the pain in the head was considerably diminished, but she was still troubled with sickness, accompanied at times with chilliness, and feverish heat; the pulse was not quick—tongue white—there was a fulness in the epigastric region, and the urine was high coloured, with a lateritious sediment, and thick throughout when cold.

Sumat omni nocte et mane hydrargyri submuriatis granum, et etiam pulveris potassæ sulphatis, subtilissime levigati, scrupulum, in haustu salino inter effervescentem bis die.—Low diet.

I saw her frequently, from this time up to the 21st. when the secretions having become healthy, with the removal of the troublesome symptoms, (the gums had become tender from the mercury) the following tonic was directed.

Recipe, Extracti aloes spicati,

———— Humuli utriusque scrupulum.

Contere et distribue in pilulas duodecim æquales e quibus sumat duas omni mane et meridie super-bibendo cyathum aquæ sodæ.

She remained in town until the 3d of April, when she returned home considerably improved in health. As there was evidently a lurking disposition to morbid action in her habit, she was directed particularly to attend to the state of her bowels, and to take twice in the week, pilularum hydrargyri grana quatuor.

I saw her again on the 8th of May, when she seemed oppressed with languor and debility, without any apparent morbid



action, as all the secretions were healthy.  
The following medicines were prescribed.

Recipe, Rasuræ Quassiæ scrupulum,  
Foliorum sennæ semi-drachmam,  
Caryophylla contusa quatuordecim,  
Aquæ ferventis octarium.  
Maceræ per horas duas et cola.

Recipe, Liquoris colati fluidrachmas decem,  
Spiritus ammoniæ aromaticæ minima viginti quinque.  
Misce, fiat haustus omni mane et meridie sumendus.

Recipe, Extracti colocynthidis compositi semi-drachmam,  
Pilularum Hydrargyri scrupulum.  
Contere et distribue in pilulas duodecim æquales,  
e quibus sumat duas vel tres horâ somni bis in  
septimanâ,

On the 27th of June, I was informed she was very well. In November, she was again brought to town, on account of small knots, similar to glandular enlargements, appearing in different parts of the skin, particularly about the wrists and joints of the fingers. She was directed to go to the coast, for the benefit of the tepid salt water bath. She remained there seven weeks, when she returned

home perfectly restored to health in every respect, and has remained so ever since.

Is it not reasonable to conclude, considering the vacillating state of health, with impending serious disease, which hung about this young lady for so long a time, that this morbid action, shewing itself in a tangible shape on the skin, would have been fixed on the glandular system of the abdomen, or in the brain, or in both, if the treatment she had undergone, both medicinal and dietetic, had not prevented it? It will give a degree of confirmation to this opinion, when I add, that she is the only surviving child of three, one of the two others having died at twelve years of age, of water in the brain, and the other at sixteen, of diseased liver; and both of them had been for some time in a vacillating uncertain state of health, before the decided diseases were manifest, which terminated fatally.

It is this uncertain state of health chiefly in young people to which I wish particularly to draw attention.\* In the case just now related, the play of morbid irritation between the digestive organs and the brain, with intervals of apparently good health, is remarkable ; and but for the interposition of regulated diet, and medicines, which controuled the irregular action of the alimentary canal, and relieved the occasional fulness of the vessels of the head, the probability is, that it would have terminated either in diseased liver, or in a fatal affection of the brain, as had happened to her brother and sister.

\* See p. 10, 34, 35, of the Pamphlet on Water in the Brain.

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The following letter, written with much feeling, precision, and judgment, by the father, will properly introduce the next case.

### CASE III.

*“ Tunbridge Wells, July 18, 1817.*

“ My dear Sir,

“ Our little daughter, in whose  
 “ behalf we requested your advice last  
 “ autumn, had been very much indisposed  
 “ some months before you saw her, and  
 “ it was several weeks before she was re-  
 “ stored to tolerable health, which con-  
 “ tinued for a very few weeks ; when she  
 “ again sickened, and we had recourse to  
 “ you. As we had suffered the bitter  
 “ affliction of losing an uncommonly in-  
 “ teresting, and apparently healthy boy,  
 “ near five years old, of a complaint in  
 “ the organs of digestion, continued  
 “ through ten weeks illness, until his life  
 “ was terminated by an effusion on the

“ brain ; and as in that ailment with  
“ which my little girl had been afflicted,  
“ some months before you saw her, her  
“ head was considerably affected, we felt  
“ much alarm ; particularly as from  
“ the perusal of your pamphlet, which  
“ we did not see until the death of  
“ our dear boy, all his symptoms are in  
“ it so accurately described, that there  
“ can be no doubt of his having, poor  
“ child, past through the three stages,  
“ you have therein described, of sickness  
“ commencing in the digestive organs,  
“ and terminating in Water in the Brain.  
“ The complaint, however, of our little  
“ daughter, made from the intestines to  
“ the head a much more rapid progress  
“ than in our son, and the symptoms of  
“ the brain being affected were much  
“ more decided and evident. At this  
“ period, and I cannot speak with cor-  
“ rectness and precision to her previous  
“ state, as it had not put on an appear-

“ ance of sickness, only in a very slight  
 “ degree; at this period her head, parti-  
 “ cularly upon the upper part of it, was  
 “ very much heated, which was instantly  
 “ perceived by laying the hand on it;  
 “ her hair was dry and felt harsh, totally  
 “ void of all oiliness; her cheeks a little  
 “ flushed, the pupils of her eyes dilated,  
 “ the action of light did not contract them  
 “ so much by one half as it does now she  
 “ is in good health. Whenever she looked  
 “ stedfastly at any object, she immedi-  
 “ ately contracted her brows into a frown:  
 “ she had a slight fever of, I think, an  
 “ intermittent type; but it might be re-  
 “ mittent, for my memory in this particu-  
 “ lar fails me: tongue slightly furred,  
 “ languor, and costiveness. In this sick-  
 “ ness my daughter was attended by an  
 “ apothecary, to whom I had lent your  
 “ treatise on Water in the Brain, and in  
 “ his treatment of her, he availed himself  
 “ with complete success of the doctrine



“ you have laid down. The course of  
 “ medicine I am unable to describe ; but  
 “ I recollect, it was alterative, moderate,  
 “ gradual, slow, but effectual ; for she  
 “ entirely got well of all the complaints  
 “ about her head. The only application  
 “ made immediately to that part was a  
 “ napkin, or sponge wet with cold vine-  
 “ gar, which was laid on the forehead for  
 “ a few minutes several times daily.”

This statement was written by a very  
 intelligent Gentleman, of Chatham, whom  
 I never had the pleasure of seeing, till I  
 was desired to visit his child in the autumn  
 of 1816, at Tunbridge Wells, where the  
 family was then residing. The above is  
 the previous history of the case, in his  
 own words, clearly detailed.

I saw this child, Miss Mobbs, two years  
 of age at Tunbridge Wells, October 30,  
 1816—She had suffered from costive and  
 very foul bowels, accompanied with fever-

ish irritation, flushings in the face, foul tongue, languor, fulness of the abdomen, and failure of appetite. The apothecary had given her some cooling purgatives, which had relieved the bowels, and diminished the fever. The bowels were however still foul, with enlargement of the abdomen, probably connected with diseased mesenteric glands; there was still much languor, a coated tongue, and flabbiness of flesh. On examination, there was observed a bend in the spine about the dorsal vertebræ.\*

Sumat pilularum hydrargyri grana tria omni nocte horâ somni.

Recipe, Vini aloes sesquifluidunciam,

Liquoris potassæ fluidunciam.

Misce, sumat cochleare parvum omni mane et meridie in paucis aquæ.

\* A similar condition of the spine has accompanied several cases of affection of the brain which I have attended. See page 102 of the Pamphlet on Water in the Brain, for the case of a child who died of Hydrancephalus two years after having recovered the use of her lower limbs, rendered semi-paralytic by a disease of the spine, and in the cases of this Appendix two had this symptom.

After taking these medicines for a fortnight, the child was ordered the following:—

Sumat hora somni bis in septimana pulveris scammonæ  
compositi grana quinque.

Recipe, Vini ferri semi-fluidunciam,

Spiritûs ammoniæ aromatici fluidrachmas duas.

Misce, sumat guttas decem bis quotidie.

The pilula hydrargyri was ordered to be taken occasionally. This plan was pursued for about a fortnight, when all symptoms of disease disappeared; but as relapses are very likely to take place in the progress of the growth of children, directions were given to have recourse to the first prescription, whenever costiveness shewed a disposition to be permanent.

London, June 27, 1817.—This child was brought to town from Chatham, and I saw her to-day. It's general health had been quite recovered; it had increased in flesh, which had also become firm—the abdomen was soft and natural to appear-



ance, and the bend in the spine had considerably diminished, with the improvement of the health. The prescriptions for the *pilula hydrargyri*, *pulvis scammoniae compositus*, and *vinum aloes*, had been several times had recourse to, at different intervals, since last November, to obviate costiveness and languor, and after taking them, the child was always improved; she was now brought to town on account of the following symptoms—She had lately become very languid and drowsy; tongue much furred; no appetite; pulse full and quick, with chills at times; bleeding at the nose has occurred, is very fretful; skin hot, is costive. Let cold applications be made to the head.

Recipe, Infusi rosæ fluiduncias quatuor,

Magnesiae sulphatis drachmas tres,

Syrupi aurantii fluidrachmas duas.

Misce, sumat cochlearia ampla duo omni mane et meridie.—Low diet.

Some supertartrat of potash was directed to be taken during the day, dissolved in water, and sweetened with sugar, as common drink.

Without entering any further into detail, I will conclude in the words of the father, in his letter to me.

“ It now only remains for me to say,  
 “ that in the eight months which have  
 “ elapsed since you gave us these various  
 “ prescriptions and directions, they have  
 “ been carefully followed, under the ob-  
 “ servation of an intelligent apothecary,  
 “ and that particular attention has been  
 “ paid to the state of the bowels, and the  
 “ appearances of the child’s motions ; and  
 “ I have the satisfaction to conclude, by  
 “ saying our little daughter is now appa-  
 “ rently in perfect good health.

In July, 1817, I saw this child perfectly well at Tunbridge Wells.

The reader will not fail to remark the

variations which were made in the prescriptions ; thus, when I first saw her, the abdominal disease was the most prominent, with glandular obstructions, when alteratives, with warm deobstruents, were required. Upon the diminution of disease in this part of the system, there subsequently took place a fulness of the vessels of the head, attended by much feverish irritation, and which required medicines of the cooler class. It is not improbable, that had not bleeding at the nose occurred at this time, there would have been pain in the head, with increase of feverish symptoms, requiring the destruction of blood from the head. It is an observation which will naturally occur here, what would have been the consequence, had the morbid condition of the digestive organs not have been relieved, up to the time when this fulness of the vessels of the brain took place ? The



morbid action in the one would have increased the disease in the other, by nervous irritation, and thus we should have had the usual complicated disease of irritated chylipoetic viscera terminating in hydrencephalus. The question is also in some degree solved, by referring to the masterly letter of the father, in which it is stated, that this child's brother fell a sacrifice to Water in the Brain, after a long continued digestive irritation.

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## CASE IV.

*Princess of S——, ætat. 14.*

On the 23d of December, 1817, I saw this young lady, with the following symptoms:—considerable head-ach, much intolerance of light ; nausea, flushings in the face ; white tongue, thirst, no appetite ; fæces of a dark green colour, and not properly figured ; feet and legs of an icy coldness ; pulse full, hard, about 62, and intermitting at every eighth or tenth beat. For several days previous to this attack, she had been languid and uneasy generally, unwilling to take exercise ; the bowels became torpid, and she had been troubled with an irritating cough, which entirely subsided when the affection of the head supervened ; and, what ought not to pass unnoticed, before the affection of the head came on the

pulse was 124, small, and without any intermission whatsoever. This morbid condition of the constitution is very unusual with her, as her bowels were always regular, and she possesses a disposition highly animated and lively, and is gifted with an extraordinary flow of spirits. Some purgative pills were directed, consisting of *extractum sennæ*, and *submuriæ hydrargyri*; and a cooling febrifuge medicine, containing in each dose ten grains of the sulphat of potash, was taken every six hours.

December 24.—The motions produced by the medicine were examined, and found as above described; they were scanty and ill formed; a restless night had been passed, by reason of the feverish heat and head-ach. The other symptoms remained the same, with so much intolerance of light and giddiness, as to render her unable to sit up, and to require the



room to be kept dark. Four leeches were applied behind each ear, and the bleeding therefrom was kept up freely for some time, and the purgatives were repeated in larger doses.—Low diet.

25th.—All the symptoms have considerably remitted, with a more equably diffused circulation. Still, however, there was head-ach, with some intolerance of light and giddiness, and the evacuations were neither healthy nor properly figured. An attention to a regulated state of the bowels, in a few days brought on healthy actions in the system, with proper secretions, and there was no necessity for any further active medical interference; some attention was however necessary for the cough, which returned, after the subsidence of the disease of the head.

On the 10th of February following, I was again desired to visit this lady, with all the symptoms already described, in an

aggravated form. Feverish heats, alternating with chills, were more distinct; greater head-ach, with intolerance of light; bowels more foul; sickness greater, and the pulse slow, hard and intermitting, with such coldness of the lower extremities, as rendered it difficult to keep them warm. Local bleedings from the head, copiously encouraged, were again had recourse to. Purgative pills, consisting of *hydrargyri submurias*, et *pulvis scammoniæ compositus*, were given at night; and during the day, the sulphat of potash, in an effervescing saline draught.

At this attack also, the affection of the brain alternated, with an irritating cough, and the same varying state of the pulse was observed as before—that is, with the cough, it was small and very quick, but regular; but when the affection of the head was troublesome, it was full, very slow and intermitting. The morbid con-

dition, and unequal distribution of the circulation, were now so much more fixed, that it required stronger purgatives, as well as the continuance of the *pilula hydrargyri*, till the mouth was affected, before more salutary action was restored, and before the secretions put on a healthy appearance ; and it was not till after the 20th, a period of more than ten days, that she was approaching to convalescence.

During this period, four grains of the *pilula hydrargyri*, were given every night, occasionally combined with the *extractum colocynthidis compositum* ; sometimes also interposing a draught of infusion of senna, with the sulphat of magnesia—it being always best to change the kind of purgative ; cold applications were also made to the head. It is also an object of great moment in the treatment, that not only should the bowels be evacuated, but that



a regular action should go on, when they are not evacuated, that no part of them should be in a state of irregular motion or quiescence; but that they should regularly progress in carrying the fæculent contents to the colon—the recipient of the useless part of the food intended to be discharged; a combination and variation of medicine should be had recourse to, to produce this effect.

Her S—— H——, lost a brother with water in the brain, several years ago.

The varied morbid action, sympathizing in other parts with the irritated digestive organs, is beautifully exemplified in this case, in its vacillation from the lungs to the brain at different times. When the lungs sympathized with the irritation, a cough was very troublesome during the day and night, with a small pulse as quick as 124; when the brain sympathized, the pulse was as low as 62; being

reduced to one half the number of beats in a minute, full and intermitting. This intermission of the pulse I have frequently remarked to take place in the approaches to this disease, the commencing irritation of the brain affecting the motion of the heart ; \* and in very young children, the pulse must be attentively noticed, before it will be discovered : it is a kind of catch, and when it occurs with evident uneasiness about the head, flushed face, and fever, with fretfulness in the child, and sickness, it may be relied upon, that a serious complaint is at hand, threatening the Brain ; and if active means be not forthwith pursued, a sudden disease will attack that organ, dangerous to life.

\* The attention has been directed to this irregularity of the pulse, in the statement of the symptoms, at p. 54, of the Pamphlet.

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I introduce the two following cases to the reader, not because they directly illustrate any affection of the brain ; but because, as will be seen in the subsequent observations on them, the family had lost four children, one of water in the brain, proved by dissection, the others of diseases with similar symptoms, and all beginning and continuing with derangement in the chylopoetic viscera.

### CASES V & VI.

In November, 1817, Geo. Palliser, Esq. of Chatham, brought to town his two daughters, Georgiana, aged ten years, and Louisa, aged eight years. I saw them on the 14th.

Miss Georgiana laboured under the following symptoms—occasional flushings in the face, with feverish heat ; some thirst, with a varying appetite, sometimes none, and sometimes keen ; bowels very cos-



tive ; urine very high coloured, and tinged with bile ; tongue white, occasional nausea ; much languor and depression of spirits ; the eyes suffused with bile, so much so as to approach to almost complete jaundice ; nights disturbed with dreams ; fulness of the epigastric region, but no pain was complained of there at any time, nor on pressure in any part of the abdomen ; head-ach was at times troublesome ; nothing remarkable in the pulse ; she had been ill about three weeks before she was brought to town, in a vacillating state of disease.

Recipe, Hydrargyri submuriatis, granum unum,  
 Pulveris scammonæ compositi, grana sex.  
 Misce, fiat pulvis hac nocte sumendus.

Recipe, Pulveris potassæ sulphatis subtilissime levigati, scrupulum unum,  
 Potassæ carbonatis, scrupulum unum,  
 Aquæ puræ fluidrachmas undecim,  
 Spiritûs myristicæ, fluidrachmam unam.  
 Misce, fiat haustus cras mane sumendus inter effervescentem cum acidi citrici pulveris granis quindecim, in cochleare largo uno aquæ puræ, solutis.

Miss Louisa was troubled with symptoms similar to those of her sister, but in a less aggravated degree; and there was no suffusion of bile in the eyes, and she had been ill a shorter time, and both had taken occasional purgatives with temporary benefit. A detail of this case will be unnecessary, on account of its similarity to her sister's, and of a nearly similar treatment.

November 15th.—The purgative medicines given last night and this morning, have produced a mass of evacuations highly offensive, foul, and badly coloured.

Habeat omni nocte et mane pilulam ex pilularum [hydrargyri granis tribus, extracti aloes spicati grano—

Sumat omni meridie pulveris [potassæ sulphatis semidrachmam in haustu salino.

The diet was moderate, both in its stimulant quality and in quantity, that the digestive organs might not be in any way oppressed. By pursuing this plan, with

very little variation, the two children were in about a fortnight much improved in health, soon became quite well, and have continued so ever since; not, however, without taking occasional alteratives, preserving proper intestinal actions, and attending to a regular diet; directions for which I always give to the parents at the conclusion of such cases particularly; for upon keeping the chylopoetic organs and alimentary canal in a healthy condition, depends the future safety of the children. Notwithstanding the two cases just related do not at first sight appear to bear directly upon the point in question, yet upon enquiry it will be found, that this deranged action of the viscera, from the consequences of which two brothers and two sisters had already perished, would have most probably led to a disease of the brain, terminating in effusion, or to such irritation of it, as would have materially



assisted in producing and accelerating some fatal disease in the abdominal viscera.

The fulness of the epigastric region, with the jaundiced appearance of the skin, exceedingly foul evacuations, and without any soreness on pressure over the region of the liver, indicated a diseased condition of the duodenum in particular, which impeded the free flow of bile into it, affording the appearances of diseased liver, that organ being sound :—a want of accurate discrimination in cases similar to this, has induced practitioners to treat them with courses of mercury as liver-diseases ; and it has also happened, that purgatives given to reduce enlarged livers, have only subdued a morbid distention of the duodenum, producing a fulness of the epigastric region.

“ The first daughter we lost,” says Mr. Palliser, in his letter to me, “ was Ann, “ in September, 1803, in the seventh year

“ of her age. The faculty never decidedly  
 “ said what was the real case, but con-  
 “ nected it with typhus.\* She was ailing  
 “ several weeks, but not seriously ill un-  
 “ til about twenty-one days before her  
 “ decease. Sarah died in October, 1811,  
 “ in her seventh year also ; the like symp-  
 “ toms of heaviness, languor, and consti-  
 “ pation came on, and the disorder of  
 “ Hydrocephalus was then suspected, and  
 “ treated accordingly ; she likewise com-  
 “ plained of sudden and sharp pains in  
 “ the head ; and when the latter was in-  
 “ spected, more than a large wine-glass  
 “ of water was extracted.

“ The next was Anthony, who died  
 “ about eight years of age, in February,  
 “ 1815. His disease came on with ob-  
 “ structions of the bowels at school,  
 “ feverish dreams, and delirious startings ;

\* The similarity of some cases of affections of the brain,  
 in the form of Phrenicula, to typhus, is remarkable.

“ and on the 26th of October, 1817,  
 “ Robert was taken from us, at the age  
 “ of six years. Mrs. Palliser has no  
 “ doubt of all the cases being the same.  
 “ The two last, after they sickened, went  
 “ off very shortly ; the others lingered  
 “ much longer.”

As these four children all died of diseases consequent to deranged action in the digestive organs and intestinal canal, and as they complained of the head, and as one was examined after death, and a morbid collection of water found in the ventricles, the probability is, that as their symptoms were similar, the death of two, at least, of the three who were not examined, as one was said to die of typhus, was owing to an affection of the brain. Further, I think, inductive reasoning, and strict analogy, completely bear me out in the conclusion, that as the two patients, Georgiana and Louisa, whose cases I have



related, had similar derangements, in the digestive organs, which induced fatal diseases in their brothers and sisters ; they also, if this morbid condition had been neglected or overlooked, would have lapsed into a disease of the brain, or some fatal affection connected with irritation there. My anxiety upon this point of incipient morbid action, apparently trifling, of the digestive organs ending in fatal disease, is so warmly expressed elsewhere,\* that I need not repeat it here ; and I think this position is fully illustrated by the six cases in one family above stated.

Since writing the above, I have received a letter from Mr. Martin, a professional gentleman of Chatham, which completely confirms my conjectures, that the cause of the death of the children was Water in the Brain ; and therefore the observations I have made respecting the ultimate danger

\* Pamphlet on the Early Symptoms of Water in the Brain, P. 5, 6, 7, 8.

of my two young patients, carry with them additional weight.

“ The first young lady (Ann) I did not  
 “ attend with my late partner, Mr. Ruffin.  
 “ Miss Sarah I attended, and in the pre-  
 “ sence of Dr. White, Surgeon of the  
 “ Dock Yard, and the late Mr. Ruffin, I  
 “ opened the head, when a very consider-  
 “ able quantity of fluid was found in the  
 “ ventricles. The other cases of Anthony,  
 “ and Robert, were so strongly marked  
 “ in their progress and termination, that  
 “ it became quite unnecessary, either for  
 “ the satisfaction of Dr. White, who  
 “ attended with me, or the family, to  
 “ examine them.”\*

\* Extract from Mr. Martin's letter, to whom I feel obliged for this communication.

## CASE VII.

*John Parsons, 12 years of age—June  
18, 1818.*

This boy was brought to town to me from the neighbourhood of Guildford. I found him subject to a pain of the stomach, attended at times with nausea. When desired to point with his finger to the part where the pain is troublesome, he points to the right of the pit of the stomach below the ribs.\* When the pain is present, pressure gives a good deal of uneasiness; the appetite at times is keen, at other times deficient; when food is taken, he feels distressed and uneasy; is troubled with flatulence; has much thirst, with the tongue in the morning white and clammy, approaching to dryness; is troubled with feverish heats, preceded by cold shiverings,

\* Exactly in the course of the duodenum, or second stomach.



with flushings at times in the face; is often languid, generally uneasy with a sense of fatigue, without any apparent cause; perspires a good deal at night, and has lost flesh; has recurrences of palpitations and flutterings at the heart; the pulse is at present perfectly steady, but quick. He is much affected at times with giddiness, considerable head-ach, and dimness of sight, and has occasionally bleedings from the nose, which for a time relieve these affections of the brain; the bowels are very torpid, and the stools are as dark as old mahogany; urine varies in colour and quantity. He has been in this state vacillating for many months, but latterly he has been more permanently worse; although he has had recourse to occasional purgatives of calomel and Epsom salts, from which he finds temporary relief.

Habeat omni nocte hora somni pilularum hydrargyri  
grana quatuor.

Habeat etiam alternis matutinis

Pulveris scammonæ compositi, grana quinq̃ue,  
 Pulveris potassæ sulphatis, drachmam unam.  
 Applicentur hirudines temporibus, ingruente capitis  
 dolore.

June 29.—His head became so painful by the time he got home, with giddiness, and objects swimming around before his sight, that it was deemed necessary to apply the leeches, which afforded relief. The bowels have been moved twice daily by the medicines, and the evacuations have become of a paler colour; complains of a craving at his stomach, about two hours after his breakfast. This craving at the stomach was so troublesome a symptom, that it was necessary to vary the prescription, so as to give a more regular movement to the duodenum, without increasing the evacuations.

Recipe, Pilularum hydrargyri, scrupulos duos,

Extracti aloes spicati, grana decem.

Contere et distribue in pilulas decem: sumat unam  
 omni nocte horâ somni.

Recipe, Pulveris potassæ sulphatis, drachmas tres,  
 Pulveris scammonæ compositi, scrupulum unum,  
 Magnesiae, semi-drachmam  
 Misce bene, conterendo, et distribue in pulveres æquales  
 sex. Sumat unum omni mane.

The leeches to be repeated if the pain of the head became troublesome.

By letter to Tunbridge Wells, received Wednesday, July 8th.—Motions from the bowels the same as at last report; his stomach is easier, though occasionally troublesome, and his head still remains rather giddy; is much troubled with flatulence; a chilliness still at times; but the flushings of the face have left him, and his feet and legs are now more uniformly warm.

On Saturday last, the 4th instant, some leeches were applied to the temples, on account of the pain of the head being very troublesome.

Perstet in usu pilularum.

Recipe, Tincturæ aloes, fluidrachmas novem,  
 Liquoris potassæ, fluidrachmas tres.  
 Misce, sumat cochleare parvum unum omni mane,



Recipe, Infusi sennæ, fluidrachmas tres.

Magnesiae sulphatis, drachmas duas,

Tincturæ jalapæ, minima viginti,

Aquæ menthæ viridis, fluidrachmas septem.

Misce, fiat haustus bis in septimanâ sumendus viz :  
diebus Saturni et Martis.

In a letter received July 31st, it is stated, that the motions are a great deal better, but his head still remains giddy; his stomach weak, sickly, and flatulent; the appetite however is good.

Omittantur medicamina.

Recipe, Extracti colocynthidis compositi, grana triginta sex,  
Pilularum hydrargyri, scrupulum unum.

Contere et distribue in pilulas duodecim.

Two or three of these pills were directed to be taken every Monday and Friday night; and a powder, composed of two scruples of the sulphat of potash, and five grains of the compound powder of scammony, to be taken every Thursday morning.

November 18th.—I saw this patient to day, he is much increased in stature and

flesh, and makes very little complaint. He was directed to keep the bowels in regular action by the medicines prescribed July 31st.

A steady perseverance in procuring regular intestinal actions in this case, which was a little obstinate, attending, at the same time, to the occasional morbid fulness of the vessels of the head, were the means of preventing the irritation on the brain, consequent to deranged digestive organs, from producing a serious disease within the skull.

The cases, which have been related, are of that nature in which the irritation of the digestive organs had not proceeded so far, in consequence of being arrested by timely attention, as to have caused an immediately dangerous affection of the brain: the case I now introduce is one which exhibits the symptoms of the second stage, running fast to the last stage,

when fatal would probably have been the event.

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### CASE VIII.

*Master Phillips, aged 14 months.*

On the 23rd of March, 1818, I first saw this child, about nine o'clock in the evening, and the following were the symptoms at the time:—great stupor, with irresistible drowsiness; skin very hot, foul tongue, frequent nausea, amounting to vomiting when any thing was taken; pulse very quick; pupils of the eyes not readily dilating on the approach of light; bowels costive, and when evacuated by medicine, stools very dark and slimy; the stool which was shewn me, and which had been past during the day, was of a pitchy colour, and in a mass of a tenacious consist-



ence; no appetite, thirst very urgent; occasional flushings in the face. Purgative medicines had been given, and leeches and blisters had been applied to the head.

“ The first symptoms of his disorder,” as his mother subsequently stated, in a note to me, dated April 6th, “ were evinced about six weeks ago, by an inactive state of his bowels; but his general health and spirits were not affected, until about three weeks since, when, on returning from his morning walk, apparently unusually well, he was taken ill suddenly with a heaviness in his head; occasionally a noise in his throat, resembling the croup; quickness of breathing, and heat in his limbs. Attributing it to cold and teething, Mrs. Phillips had the gums lanced on the following day, which did not relieve him, although three teeth made their appearance during the week; he pro-

“ gressively became worse, his stupor  
 “ increased, and when roused from it,  
 “ which was done with difficulty, he was  
 “ very restless and uneasy; his head was  
 “ an intolerable weight, with great heat,  
 “ frequent sneezing, and violent discharge  
 “ from his nose; vomiting; his limbs cold  
 “ and clammy; his bowels were become  
 “ more inactive, medicine taking very  
 “ little effect. He continued in that state  
 “ until about a fortnight ago, when the  
 “ application of leeches and blisters ap-  
 “ peared to rouse him; the following day  
 “ he relapsed into his former stupor, all  
 “ around supposing it would soon termi-  
 “ nate fatally; greatly alarmed, Mrs.  
 “ Phillips sent to Dr. Yeats.”

I found him with the symptoms I have  
 described in the first part of the history of  
 the case, and certainly no case ever wore  
 a more unpromising appearance.

Recipe, Hydrargyri submuriatis, grana duo,  
 Pulveris scammonæ compositi, grana sex.  
 Misce, sit pulvis, sextâ quâque horâ, sumendus.

Recipe, Pulveris potassæ subcarbonatis, scrupulum unum.  
 Aquæ puræ, fluidunciam unam,  
 Acidi citrici pulveris, grana quindecim.  
 Misce.

Peractâ effervescentiâ, adde  
 Pulveris potassæ sulphatis subtilissimè levigati, grana  
 decem.  
 Misce, sit haustus, sextis horis intermediis, sumendus.

Cold applications were made to the head.

March 24.—Bowels copiously evacuated, and stools very offensive, slimy, and of a very dark colour; less stupor, and somewhat attentive to objects.

Habeat hydrargyri submuriatis grana duo, sextâ quâque hora, et pulveris scammonæ compositi grana sex, mane et meridie.

As this patient\* resided in Great Tower Street, at a considerable distance from my

\* Child of Mr. Phillips, a highly respectable tradesman.



residence, which made it very inconvenient for me to see him daily, I left him, with directions, under the management of an attentive and intelligent apothecary, Mr. Hingeston, until the 28th. The last prescription was continued until this day; the stupor and affection of the head gradually subsided, as the intestinal movements were regularly maintained. At this time debility only remained, connected, however, with the want of a regular peristaltic action. The following draught was prescribed, and the child gradually recovered; but some time elapsed before his health was completely re-established.

Recipe, Infusi calumbæ, fluidrachmas tres,

—— Rhæi, fluidrachmam,

Spiritûs myristicæ, semi-fluidrachmam,

Magnesiæ sulphatis, grana decem.

Misce, sit haustus, omni mane et meridie, sumendus.

Habeat pro re natâ pulveris scammonæ compositi  
grana octo.

It is very well known, that certain articles of food are apt to disagree with particular people to such an extent, as to produce very alarming and painful impressions on the constitution. I know persons with whom lobsters, salmon, and even strawberries disagree, in such a manner as to cause fiery eruptions and blotches on the skin, in consequence of the irritating effects which these articles in them produce on the nerves of the stomach. I do not, therefore, introduce the following case as a novelty of such morbid sympathies, but by carrying on my chain of illustrations, to shew what dangerous effects will be produced in the brain, by simple irritation of the stomach, particularly under certain conditions of the constitution.

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## CASE IX.

Viscountess——— travelled to London, from a considerable distance in the country, February 12, 1818, for the purpose of taking medical advice. In the evening of the same day, she miscarried of a six weeks embryo. Mr. Clarke and I saw her on the following day; the pulse was calm; there was some hæmorrhage from the uterus, which was sore on pressure. Rest in the horizontal posture, and the anti-phlogistic plan, were enjoined.

Rècipe, Infusi rosæ, fluidrachmas duodecim,  
 Magnesiæ sulphatis, scrupulum.  
 Misce, sit haustus ter die sumendus.

On the 17th, it was ascertained that the uterus was prolapsed into the vagina. On the 19th, after having slept remarkably well, she felt soon after rising a head-ach, which increased with such violence, that about two o'clock she sent to her apothecary.



cary and myself; both being from home, she sent for Mr. Clarke, who was very fortunately at home. On his arrival he found her with a full strong pulse, great pain, and some sense of weight and fullness of the head; dimness of sight, with occasional party-coloured appearances of objects; flushed face; light very troublesome; great throbbing of the carotids; sickness and vomiting had taken place, with a diarrhœa to the extent of eleven motions. He immediately opened the jugular vein, and upon the abstraction of blood the pulse became calmer, the head easier, and the sight clear. Three grains of calomel, and six of rhubarb, were administered, and cold applications made to the head.

I saw her in the evening with a good deal of uneasiness still about the head. arising from a sensation as if it were jarred, and there was still intolerance of

light. The bowels had been very freely moved, but the sickness was still troublesome at times, and there was much soreness in the epigastric region on pressure. The head was very hot to the touch, and the pulse full and quick; the tongue was very white, and she complained of thirst, with total loss of appetite. The cold applications were continued to the head.

On the following day she felt herself much better, except that her sickness was a little troublesome, and a soreness still continued in the epigastric region. In the evening she was seized with a violent pain in the left temple, spreading down the side of the face; it continued troublesome for two days, being relieved by a sedative liniment—recovery then took place. Enquiry could discover no adequate cause for this digestive irritation, with the accompanying serious affection of the brain, except the circumstance of her having

eaten heartily of oysters for two successive days. It could scarcely be doubted that this was the cause, as her diet was extremely plain; she was subject to no constitutional ailment, calculated to affect the head in this way; and moreover, she is of a delicate spare habit, with no indication whatsoever of any symptom of fulness of the vessels of the brain. The irritation in the stomach was exceedingly great, and the effects on the brain were serious; and although the injury within the head was obviated by timely aid, yet all the unpleasant consequences did not immediately cease, for soreness in the epigastric region with nausea, and morbid sensations, continued for some time; and a painful affection of the face supervened, similar in the distress it occasioned to *Tic Doloieux*. Tranquillity, with a soothing treatment of the digestive organs, removed the complaints, and obviated any further bad con-



sequences. In the fifth volume of the Transactions of the College of Physicians, the late Dr. Clarke has related several similar cases from similar causes; some of which proved fatal.

The reciprocal morbid action which often exists between the digestive organs and the brain, will frequently produce very multifarious symptoms, and in such a way, that unless the physician be sure of his ground, and perseveringly steady in his practice, he will consider the case as hopeless and irremediable by art. Such a reciprocal state of disease, begun and continued by nervous communication, will give rise to spasms, convulsions, vomitings, contortions of the countenance, affections of the sight, violent head-achs, fullness of the vessels of the brain, effusion of water into the ventricles, faltering voice, chorea, and palsy.

I relate the following case, as illustrative in the same individual, of nearly the whole of these points. The child, a female, four years of age, was brought to town from Essex, on the 9th of November, 1815, in a deplorate state, as a forlorn hope; but is very fortunately much recovered, not only from all the painful symptoms, but in a great measure from the palsy.

### CASE X.

Miss L. F. complains of head-ach, entirely confined to the crown of the head, accompanied with drowsiness, and sickness of stomach, with vomiting to such an extent, that she cannot retain any thing, of any kind, upon her stomach; deep sighings, flushings; the eyes are occasionally turned inwards, affording the appearance of squinting; the pupils are

much dilated, and do not exhibit a healthy irritability on the near approach of a candle, but she does not complain that the light is troublesome; a transient puffiness of the epigastric region takes place; the appetite is entirely gone, but she makes no complaint of thirst. The paroxysms of vomiting and pain of the head, are followed by sleep, so deep and long, as to become stupor, from which she is with difficulty roused.\* She is unable to walk or stand, without support, having partially lost the use of the lower limbs; and there is also a paralytic debility in her upper extremities, and indeed of her whole body, as she cannot turn herself in bed. Pulse very feeble, beating between 90 and 100 strokes in a minute, and is very irregular; tongue moist, with a

\* The paroxysm came on to-day, (Nov. 9, 1815), and I saw her at my first visit in a drowsy torpor, lying like a heavy helpless mass in her mother's lap.



slight brown incrustation, especially at the roots; bowels exceedingly costive, sometimes three days will elapse without any evacuation, although aperient pills are taken. The evacuations are of a dark colour, and are not particularly foul; but they do not properly tinge water when diluted with it, and they are void of fœtor. The expulsive power of the bladder partakes of the paralytic debility, as she sometimes remains twelve hours without evacuating urine, and seldom feels the inclination, except when reminded of it; she will then continue a considerable time on the utensil before she is able to pass it.

The head-achs and vomitings had come on about one year and a half before I saw her. Sudden fits of sickness at stomach, as suddenly departing, frequently occurred, and she would occasionally drop suddenly on the floor while standing, and even from her chair while sitting, without

any previous warning; and these falls were not accompanied or followed by any of the usual consequences of a fit, as she would immediately rise again without any apparent disease. These head-achs and vomitings constantly recurred with the interval of a few days, till the beginning of winter 1814, when the symptoms became so violent, that her medical attendants were obliged to have recourse to leeches, blisters, and mercurial medicines, till the mouth was affected, by which she was much relieved. The symptoms, however, returned at the end of January 1815, and continued with increased violence till she was reduced to the deplorable condition described in the history of the case, and in which I first saw her. She had taken a great variety of medicines; much calomel at different times; bark, valerian, and steel, and had had a seton in her neck for two months; and the plan of treatment

had been directed by physicians and surgeons of very considerable character, and acknowledged professional repute, in the country.

Recipe, Extracti colocynthidis compositi, grana decem,  
 Pulveris scammonæ compositi, grana tria,  
 Extracti sennæ, grana quatuor.  
 Contere et distribue in pilulas quatuor.  
 Sumat duas statim et alteras post horas sex.

November 10th.—Took two of the pills yesterday, which in the afternoon produced a copious bound evacuation, and some watery stools were past in the night. The stools, thrown away by mistake, are represented as dark coloured. She became more lively yesterday afternoon, and feeling a desire for food, ate some meat, which was however soon thrown up again. The irritability of the stomach is such, that nothing remains on it. Some effervescing soda water just now given is immediately returned. Pulse about 80, sometimes



quick, and sometimes slow ; intermitting, feeble, but fuller than yesterday.

Habeat omni nocte hora somni pilularum hydrargyri grana quinque.

Recipe, Extracti humuli, scrupulum,

Pulveris potassæ sulphatis, semi-drachmam,

Extracti aloes spicati, grana duodecim.

Contere et distribue in pilulas æquales sex.

Sumat unam omni mane et meridie.

Immerse the feet and legs (which are always cold) in hot water, with mustard and salt in it, every night: sponge the crown of the head with cold water.

11th.—Has had no sickness since yesterday, and ate her dinner of boiled sweet-bread with appetite ; has had an evacuation of a light yellow colour ; past a good deal of pale water this morning. Pulse 80, regular, but very feeble ; still sighs a good deal. A table spoonful of Madeira wine, mixed with some soda water, to be taken at her dinner.

Continuantur medicamina,

The symptoms continued nearly the same, with some sickness and vomiting at times, when a puffiness in the epigastric region, which occasionally had appeared before, was observed. The morbid action of the digestive organs had been so long fixt in this child, that there was not only a suspicion of glandular obstruction within the abdomen, and probably also some effusion of water on the brain; but I was sure it would be difficult to break this habit of diseased action; I however resolved to attempt this by a mercurial course, in addition to the plan, already adopted, of keeping the intestinal canal gradually and healthily excited.

Recipe, Camphoræ grana decem, ope spiritûs vini guttarum  
pancarum, in pulverem redactæ,  
Unguenti hydrargyri fortioris, scrupulum,  
Opîi puri pulveris subtilissimè levigati, grana  
quatuor.

Contere bene ut fiat unguentum, regioni epigastricæ,  
quotidie infricendum.

Recipe, Infusi caryophyllorum, fluidrachmas decem,

Extracti humuli, grana quatuor,

Pulveris potassæ sulphatis, grana decem,

——— radicis rhæi, grana duo.

Misce, fiat haustus omni mane et meridie sumendus.

November 15th, 12 meridie—Past yesterday in good spirits, and ate her dinner with appetite; has also had a good night, but on waking this morning was immediately seized with head-ach, sickness, and vomiting, which have continued troublesome ever since. She is now lying down, perfectly torpid, with a disposition to sleep; pupils very much dilated; nothing remains on the stomach; puffiness of the epigastric region not apparent to-day. I gave her one of the opening pills prescribed on the 9th, and directed another to be taken at night, if the bowels were not moved by that time.

Continuatur unguentum et habeat cras mane haustum  
heri præscriptum.



16th. Was not sick till this morning, after some tea, since she took the opening pill yesterday; the bowels have been moved, evacuations yellow.

*Repetatur pilula cathartica hac nocte, et continuantur unguentum et haustus.*

18th. Had two evacuations of a deep brown colour yesterday: she appeared better the whole of the day. For the first time this morning, after a very long period, upon waking, she called for the utensil to pass her urine, being heretofore always reminded to do it; although the bladder evidently contained much urine, from the fulness in the lower part of the belly. Bowels moved only slightly to-day.

*Repetatur pilula cathartica omni mane.*

*Habeat haustum omni meridie solummodo.*

*Augeatur unguentum ad semi-drachmam.*

23d.—The general circumstances have continued the same since last report,

having occasionally been troubled with vomiting, sickness, and head-ach. Although she has complained of her teeth being on edge, there does not appear to be any affection of the gums, and the breath is not offensive. Some vessels turgid with red blood are observed in the adnata of the eyes—this was also the case yesterday; the tongue is quite moist, but white; the evacuations are of a brown colour, but do not tinge water yellow; the bowels are now more easily excited.

*Utatur unguento hydrargyri bis quotidie.*

*Sumat hydrargyri cum cretâ grana decem omni nocte  
hora somni.*

25th.—A puffy swelling has appeared about the right eye, and the upper lip has become tumid, and still remains swelled and protuberant; has been troubled with transient pains in the head; the medicines and food have been retained on the sto-

mach; the bowels have been moved, and the evacuations are as last described; the turgid blood vessels have disappeared from the eyes.

30th.—Has improved; had two evacuations yesterday, and one to day, although no opening pill was taken this morning; the evacuation is of a deeper brown yellow than heretofore, and of a proper form, and gives a more yellow tinge to water; the odour is also more natural; before, at times, the stools were without any smell; the mother's gums have become affected by rubbing the ointment on the child; but there is no affection of the child's gums, or breath.

*Nisi, iterum dejiciatur hodie, habeat, cras mane, pilulam catharticam.*

*Continuatur haustus et utatur unguento semel quotidie solummodo.*

December 4th.—The symptoms have continued nearly the same; some enlarged



lymphatic glands have made their appearance on the side of the neck. The hair has been taken from the crown of the head, and the liquor potassæ, applied as a lotion twice a day, has caused excoriation.

*Omittantur haustus et pilula.*

*Habeat decocti aloes compositi fluidrachmas sex,*

*Liquoris potassæ minima quinque, pro haustu, bis quotidie.*

December 6th.—One week has now elapsed since she has had any attack of head-ach of any consequence, and a fortnight since she has had any sickness, and a much longer time since there has been any epigastric swelling; the evacuations have been healthy above a week; a more general diffusion of warmth has taken place; the urine is passed with ease and expedition, and in good quantity; there has been no squinting for some time; eyes sufficiently active, and the pupils contract healthily on the approach of light; she has more command of the muscles of the

lower limbs, and the general muscular powers are strengthened; there has been no intermission in the pulse for a considerable time. Let the mercurial ointment be used for the last time to-day.

*Continuatur decoctum aloes compositum.*

By the use of these means, occasionally varied, but always directed to preserve the regular propelling power of the intestines, she returned into the country on the 12th of December, very much improved in health; and in February following, I had the satisfaction to receive a letter, stating that she was growing tall and fat. On going to the country, she carried with her directions for pursuing the plan when necessary, which had been successfully adopted in London. In the following autumn, (1816) after a gradual progress to convalescence, there was a return of some of the unpleasant symptoms, but they

were soon subdued by a recurrence to the directions.\*

The following is an extract from a letter, dated January 19, 1819, I have received from the Mother:—"Lucretia, though  
 " much better than ever I expected to see  
 " her, frequently complains of head-ach,  
 " which when severe is attended with the  
 " old symptoms of sickness, disordered  
 " bowels, &c. On all attacks of this sort  
 " I immediately give at night, a grain or  
 " two of calomel and ginger, and in the  
 " morning the pills of extractum humuli,

\* A case very similar to this is hinted at in page 99 of the Pamphlet on Water in the Brain. The patient, son of Mr. Asperne, Bookseller, Cornhill, was a clerk in the Bank, and had been prevented for four years, by a paralytic affection, accompanied with great disorder in the digestive organs, in which the liver largely partook, from attending his duties; treatment similar to that of the patient whose case is related in the text, so far recovered him from all his complaints, that he has been able to attend at the Bank as usual now for three years. This recovery has occurred since the Pamphlet was published.



“ sulphas potassæ, et extractum aloes\*,  
 “ and these are continued sometimes for  
 “ a fortnight together, and I find she is  
 “ invariably relieved by this treatment.”

Few cases could be more alarming, and I have related it at some length, as I think it fully illustrates, both in the symptoms, and in the plan of treatment, the doctrine which has led to it; and the steady perseverance in the practice founded upon it, appears to me to have rescued her from her impending fate. I am inclined to believe, that the portion of the digestive organs most in fault, was the duodenum, an intestine, the functions and diseases of which, have not been, of late at least, much attended to.

*Queen Street,*

*May Fair,*

*February 2, 1819.*

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FINIS.

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\* The pills directed in the prescription in p.88.

